

CLAIMS

1. A method of handling a print job, the method comprising:
- determining whether the entire print job can be processed locally;
- 5 processing the print job locally if possible;
- if the entire print job cannot be processed locally:
- sending the print job to an external rendering device;
- receiving a rendered print job from the external rendering device;
- and
- 10 printing the rendered print job received from the external rendering device.
2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein sending the print job to an external rendering device includes sending a portion of the print job that cannot
- 15 be processed locally to an external rendering device.
3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein sending the print job to an external rendering device includes sending a first portion of the print job that cannot be processed locally to a first external rendering device and sending a second portion of the print job that cannot be processed locally to a second external rendering device.

~~4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the external rendering device is accessible via the Internet.~~

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the external rendering device is a server coupled to the Internet.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether the entire print job can be processed locally is performed by a local printer.

7. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that 10 is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

8. A method of handling a print job, the method comprising:
identifying portions of the print job that can be processed locally;
processing the identified portions of the print job locally;
15 sending the portions of the print job that cannot be processed locally to an external rendering device; and
receiving rendered portions of the print job from the external rendering device.

20 9. A method as recited in claim 8 further including printing the print job by combining portions processed locally and rendered portions received from the external rendering device

10. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein sending the portions of
the print job that cannot be processed locally to an external rendering device
includes sending a first portion of the print job that cannot be processed locally
to a first external rendering device and sending a second portion of the print job
5 that cannot be processed locally to a second external rendering device.

11. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the external rendering
device is accessible via the Internet.

10 12. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the external rendering
device is a server coupled to the Internet.

15 13. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein identifying portions of
the print job that can be processed locally is performed by a local printer.

14. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program
that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 8.

20 15. A printer comprising:
a communication interface; and
a processor coupled to the communication interface, wherein the
processor determines whether an entire print job can be processed by the
printer, if the entire print job cannot be processed by the printer, then the
printer sends the portions of the print job that cannot be processed by the
25 printer to an external rendering device, and the printer receives rendered
portions of the print job from the external rendering device.

~~16. A printer as recited in claim 15 wherein the communication interface is a network communication interface coupled to the Internet.~~

~~17. A printer as recited in claim 15 wherein the external rendering device is a server coupled to the communication interface.~~

~~18. A printer as recited in claim 15 wherein the printer sends a first portion of the print job that cannot be processed by the printer to a first external rendering device and the printer sends a second portion of the print job that cannot be processed by the printer to a second external rendering device.~~